

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

FOUNDED BY FRANCIS H. HERRICK 1905



PUBLISHED BY THE KIRTLAND BIRD CLUB

AND

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

2717 EUCLID AVE., CLEVELAND 15, OHIO

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Winter Number

Issued April 16, 1954

Subscription Price - \$1.00 a Year

Editorial Committee

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Rudolph J. Kula

Harold E. Wallin

Lida H. Whittier

Kirtland Bird Club

Lucille M. Mannix

Donald L. Newman

Marjorie Ramisch

CONTRIBUTORS

James F. Akers

Ruth Austed

Carl Baier

L. P. Barbour

Don Berendsen

Mrs. Don Berendsen

Karen Berendsen

Don Berendsen, Jr.

Mrs. R.V.D. Booth

Vera Carrothers

Roy E. Clisby

Mrs. Roy E. Clisby

M. Owen Davies

Mrs. Owen J. Davies

Ralph W. Dexter

H. C. Dobbins

Maude Doolittle

Paul Douglas Mrs.

Paul Douglas Dr.

C.T. Downer

Delmar A. Ernest

Arnold Fernengle

Adela Gaede

Mrs. J.W. Gebhart

Carlin Gibbs

Mrs. E. R. Gibson

Florence Gray

P. V. Greohrs

Stanley Guise

Carl F. Hamann

Mrs. Carl F. Hamann

Frances Harshbarger

Stephen T. Harty

Raymond W. Hill

Robert Hoffman

Mrs. L.M. Hostetler

Mrs. Paul Hughey

Mrs. Donato Internoscia

Frank D. Johnson

Perry F. Johnson

Mrs. Robert Klopfenstein

Charles H. Knight

Rudolph J. Kula

Mrs. Clara Lake

Hilda Lebold

Mrs. John Liska

Mrs. A.E. Luedy

David M. McConoughey

Frank P. McConoughey

T. W. Mastin

N. A. Meinhardt

Phil Meyer

Joseph Nagle

Donald L. Newman

Gretta Pallister

Hugh Pallister

Margaret E. Perner

Jerry Piskac

Marjorie Ramisch

Margaret Suhr

Reed Marie Roetzel

John Roetzel

Fred Ruckman

Howard Rupert

Edward F. Schuster

Mrs. Francis Sherwin

Harlan Sisler

Merit B. Skaggs

Ray Smiley

Fred Smith

Martin Smith

Paul Smith

Fred Staiger

Mrs. Fred Staiger

Mike Stasko

Fred S. Stover

Mrs. Fred S. Stover

Carol Stover

David Swetland

David Swetland, Jr.

James Thorpe

Florence Vallender

Maurice B. Walters

Mrs. S. H. Watson

Daniel Waugh

Harold E. Wallin

Lida H. Whittier

NOTES ON THE WEATHER
From U.S. Weather Bureau, Cleveland Airport

- December - Bright and mild and the 8th consecutive month with temperatures above normal. Precipitation, mostly as rain, was above average for the month with about 2/3 of the total occurring during the first half. Snowfall light and only 60% of normal amount. Sunshine particularly outstanding with the greatest December amount during 59 years of record.
- January - Temperature average was normal, yet this was the coldest January in 5 years. Minimum of 2° on the 11th. Snowfall above normal for the month, but the snow cover averaged about one inch on only 4 days.
- February - This was the warmest February since 1930 and the third warmest during 84 years of local record. The highest temperature, 67° on the 15th, established a new all time record for that date. Snowfall, which occurred mostly during the opening and closing weeks, was only a little more than normal until the last few hours of the last day when a record-breaking snowstorm began.

SPECIES OCCURRENCE

The only record of a loon, and an early one, is one seen February 21 in the Fairport area by Mrs. Robert Booth.

Jim Akers saw a Holboell's grebe January 8 on the lakefront at Gordon Park.

A live but exhausted horned grebe was found on the doorstep of a house on Fairmount Boulevard north of County Line Road December 23. It was brought to the museum and later released.

Pied-billed grebes were reported during December and February, a maximum of 40 on the December 27 Cuyahoga Falls Christmas Census.

A double-crested cormorant remained for about 3 weeks a mile east of Lorain Harbor (Lebold), while Stephen Harty saw one January 23 and four February 6 on the Cleveland lakefront.

Twenty-two Canada geese and 1 blue goose were reported on December 27 (Cuyahoga Falls Christmas Census). The first spring flock of Canadas reported was one of 75 birds seen February 25 near Olmsted (Wallin).

The usual wintering species of ducks were present in good numbers, and others reported during the period were gadwall, baldpate, pintail, green-winged teal and oldsquaw. Canvasbacks were particularly numerous this winter, a maximum of 65 seen at Baldwin Reservoir January 16 by R. W. Hill, who says he has never seen them there before. A large raft of ruddies (242) was present January 2 in the cove at the foot of West Boulevard (Davies). A late wood duck was seen December 3 at Aurora by Carl Hamann. White-winged scoters were present on the lake this winter, up to 3 at a time being seen December 13 through February 6 in locations ranging from Perkins Beach to Fairport, while an American scoter was seen December 12 on the lakefront by Adela Gaede and Vera Carrothers, and one male February 6 at the flats by the Coast Guard Station in Cleveland by Stephen Harty

The third record for the region for the broad-winged hawk is one bird seen on the Kirtland Bird Club Christmas Census December 27.

Stephen Harty saw a Wilson's snipe January 17 at Summit Lake. Purple sandpipers were seen December 5(4) at Fairport (Harty) and December 6(3) and 13(3) at Black Brook (Paul Smith).

Phalaropes were reported as follows:

Northern - December 4(1) Gordon Park (Harty)
December 27(1) Kirtland Bird Club Christmas Census
January 7, 8(1) Gordon Park (Harty, Akers)

Red - December 20(1) Gordon Park. R.W. Hill says the bird was very tame, only a few feet off the rocks, spinning around in a small circle, evidently feeding as it kept dabbing its bill into the water.

January 1(1) Seen at the same spot at Gordon Park, probably the same bird (Hill, Godfrey)

Two great black-backed gulls were seen January 8 by James F. Akers and a glaucous gull December 27 on the Kirtland Club Christmas Census along the Cleveland lakefront. Paul Smith recorded 2 common terns December 6, six on December 13 and 1 on December 20 at Black Brook.

There were only 4 snowy owls reported in the region during the period:

January 14 - Lorain, sitting on TV antennae (Lebold)
January 17 - Wagar Road, Rocky River, in flight (Klopfenstein)
January 21 - Big Bradley Woods, North Olmsted (Ernest)
February 13 - Near corner of Richmond and Kinsman Roads, in flight (Hill)

Jim Akers recorded short-eared owls at the Cleveland Airport, 2 on January 8 and 3 on February 25.

A very rare species for the region was observed December 11 by Perry F. Johnson at Cascade Park Elyria - the Arctic three-toed woodpecker. For a full account of Mr. Johnson's record see page 6.

A pileated woodpecker was reported near a ravine on Compton Road, Cleveland Heights February 26. Several other reports from the eastern suburbs in recent years seem to indicate that the pileateds are still increasing and spreading.

Only 11 red-breasted nuthatches were reported during the whole winter.

Some unusual species seen during the winter were catbird, hermit thrush, and northern shrike on the Kirtland Bird Club Christmas Census December 27; myrtle warblers, 7 on the census, 2 January 2 and 1 January 16 at Willoughby (Skaggs), rusty blackbird December 3 at Aurora (Hamann), and field sparrow December 27, three on Lakewood Christmas Census, 3 in same spot in Rocky River Metropolitan Park February 22 (Davies).

Species seen throughout the winter are killdeer, mourning dove, kingfisher, flicker, yellow-bellied sapsucker (December 27(3), January 10-February 19(1)), robin, bluebird, meadowlark, redwing, bronzed grackle, cowbird, purple finch, white-throated sparrow, swamp sparrow, and song sparrow. At Wellington, just outside our area, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Clisby had white-crowned sparrows at their feeder in January and February.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUSES
December 27, 1953

	Cleveland Kirtland Bird Club	Lakewood (Owen Davies)	Cuyahoga Falls Audubon Club
Horned Grebe	18	1	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	40
Great Blue Heron	4	0	1
Canada Goose	0	0	22*
Blue Goose	0	0	1*
Mallard	100	34	276
Black Duck	185	6	133
Green-winged Teal	0	0	1*
Baldpate	0	0	8
Redhead	4	3*	0
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	3
Canvasback	2	0	0
Greater Scaup	5	0	0
Lesser Scaup	3050	4157	6
Goldeneye	25	128	26
Bufflehead	3	3	0
Oldsquaw	1	0	0
Ruddy Duck	17	109	2
American Merganser	61	9	3
Red-breasted Merganser	51	21	0
Hooded Merganser	1	0	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	0	0
Cooper's Hawk	4	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk	7	0	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	1*	3
Broad-winged Hawk	1*	0	0
Marsh Hawk	4	0	0
Sparrow Hawk	9	0	6
Bobwhite	31	0	18
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	11	25
Coot	1	0	31
Killdeer	1	1*	0
Northern Phalarope	1*	0	0
Glaucous Gull	1	0	0
Herring Gull	977	1085	1
Ring-billed Gull	2275	1600	1
Bonaparte's Gull	450	787	0
Mourning Dove	31	0	0
Screech Owl	0	1	1
Great Horned Owl	1	0	0
Barred Owl	1	0	0
Kingfisher	8	1	0
Flicker	10	1	1
Pileated Woodpecker	7	0	0
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	0	1*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	0	0
Hairy Woodpecker	17	1	3
Downy Woodpecker	131	23	29

	Cleveland Kirtland Bird Club	Lakewood (Owen Davies)	Cuyahoga Falls Audubon Club
Prairie Horned Lark	7	0	0
Blue Jay	173	34	51
Crow	33	53	8
Black-capped Chickadee	318	33	99
Tufted Titmouse	156	25	21
White-breasted Nuthatch	138	23	26
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	0	3
Brown Creeper	4	5	3
Winter Wren	3	0	0
Carolina Wren	4	1	0
Catbird	1	0	0
Robin	12	3	3
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0
Bluebird	6	0	0
Golden-crowned Kinglet	50	8	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	0	1
Cedar Waxwing	187	58	33
Northern Shrike	1*	0	0
Starling	579	96	549
Myrtle Warbler	7	0	0
English Sparrow	675	112	614
Meadowlark	1	0	0
Bronzed Grackle	0	0	3
Cardinal	150	32	107
Purple Finch	0	4	0
Goldfinch	57	10	85
Junco	494	91	116
Tree Sparrow	426	25	310
Field Sparrow	0	3	0
White-throated Sparrow	8	0	0
Swamp Sparrow	2	0	0
Song Sparrow	52	28	9
Snow Bunting	5	0	0
NO SPECIES	70	39	46
INDIVIDUALS	11,069	8,626	2,691
OBSERVERS	33	16	20

Radius of Areas - 7.5 miles, although in the Lakewood census coverage was actually considerably less.

Description of Areas:

Cleveland - Gordon Park eastward to mouth of Chagrin River along Lake Erie shore; inland to Shaker Lakes, Gates Mills, North Chagrin Reservation and Willoughby.

Lakewood - Edgewater Park west along lakefront to Wagar Park; Clague Park; Rocky River Metropolitan Park as far south as the second ford; Mastick Park, Rocky River Trailside Museum area south to Brookpark Bridge; Metropolitan Drive in Olmsted Falls.

Cuyahoga Falls - 7.5 mile radius about square in Cuyahoga Falls plus Lake Mogadore.

* Seen for the first time on Christmas Census

FIELD NOTES

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker - December 11, 1953 - Cascade Park, Elyria. The bird was seen, but not immediately identified, when I started down the hill from Marylin Court at the north end of Cascade Park in the early afternoon. Small birds in the tree-tops attracted my attention, and I stopped to check them with the glasses. I had noticed, as I stopped, that a woodpecker, which, judging by size I mentally noted as a Hairy, was working on a tree trunk about 25 feet away and about even with my eye level, though he was some 20 feet up the tree from where its trunk was rooted in the hillside. I took a second look at the "Hairy" with the glasses (8 x 32) before moving on and was stopped in my tracks. Not recognizing it at once, I made a field sketch then and there, while the bird paid little attention. The thing that struck me first when I got the glasses on the bird was that its eye seemed to be set on a black head, with a white gash (like an eye line to the naked eye) cutting down from the forehead to the neck at a sharp angle, passing well below the eye itself. Gray streaking of the flanks, white underparts and tail edgings, and the solid black back from the bill to the tail were details noted once I was aware that I was looking at something I did not know. Reference to a field guide as soon as I could get to one identified the bird as a female Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker without question.

The tree on which the bird was seen was a medium-sized, perhaps unhealthy, rough-barked tree, which I think is an elm. Bark characteristics so indicate. I saw the bird there just this one time. I watched her loosen rough pieces of bark and let them fall to the ground - pieces two to four inches long and up to a quarter of an inch thick. I thought nothing special about this at the time, but I noticed on checking the tree the next time I was in the vicinity, hoping to see the bird a second time, that this particular tree was easy to pick out among the others with which it was surrounded. More than 50% of its bark area, on main branches and trunk, had been peeled of these rough, outer pieces of bark. It was like the PWA work done on ornamental elms in Fort Wayne, Indiana, during the depression, when Dutch Elm Disease was becoming a threat. Short-handled hoes were used to peel off the rough outer bark of these elms from the ground up to ten feet or so, giving them a smooth, new-wood look on this part of the trunk. The woodpecker had done the same thing on this particular tree, starting up from the ground 15 feet or so, and following the main branches up to the place where the outer bark was no longer rough. The tree is still easy to pick out, as the weather has not yet darkened the new, smooth bark layers now exposed.

Perry F. Johnson

Additional Notes on Food of Common Birds-V - Of 22 dead birds brought to the biological laboratories of Kent State University during the past year, all but one (a Sora) contained stomach contents. The analyses of the 21 stomachs and of 73 Barn Owl pellets are given below as a further contribution to the study of food habits of common birds in the Cleveland area. The previous report was published in the Cleveland Bird Calendar 49(1):9-10. 1953.

American Coot - Found dead at Hartville, January 21, 1954. Contents: a large mass of fine sand containing macerated vegetation.

American Woodcock - Found dead in Streetsboro Township of Portage County, October, 1953. Contents: 1 earthworm, 2 insect grubs.

Mourning Dove - A nestling found injured in Mentor Township of Lake County, June 1, 1953. Contents: a seed of yellow foxtail (Setaria glauca).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - Found dead at Kent, May 3, 1953. Contents: fragments of Coleoptera and Hemiptera.

Black-billed Cuckoo - Found dead at Northampton, May 17, 1953. Contents: a large mass of tent caterpillars and their webbing.

Barn Owl - (1) 52 pellets collected from a silo at Hartville, May 26, 1953. An average of 3.5 skulls was found per pellet. Contents: Field Mouse (Microtus pennsylvanicus) 148, Short-tailed Shrew (Blarina brevicauda) 17, White-footed Deer Mouse (Peromyscus leucopus) 16, House Mouse (Mus musculus) 2, and 2 humeral bones from a rat. (2) 21 pellets collected from belfry of the Freedom Congregational Church at Freedom, August 9, 1953. An average of 2.4 skulls was found per pellet. Contents: Field Mouse 38, Short-tailed Shrew 7, House Mouse 4, Harvest Mouse (Reithrodontomys humulis) 1, and Canada Shrew (Sorex cinereus) 1.

Eastern Robin - (1) Found dead in Kent, April 15, 1953. Contents: 2 weevils, 2 beetle larvae, and 1 earthworm. (2) An immature specimen found dead on K.S.U. campus, August 11, 1953. Contents: 1 millipede, 1 cherry, 2 unidentified seeds, and a few blades of grass.

Olive-backed Thrush - Found dead on campus of K.S.U. August, 1953. Contents: portions of crabapple and some insect fragments.

Cedar Waxwing - Found dead on K.S.U. campus. (1) May, 1953. Contents: fruit and seeds of grapes. (2) October 23, 1953. Contents: fruit and seeds of Cotoneaster. (3) October 26, 1953. Contents: fruit and seeds of Cotoneaster, 1 seed of Black Haw, and 2 unidentified seeds. (4) November 3, 1953. Contents: fruits and seeds of Barberry. (5) November 11, 1953. Contents: fruits and seeds of crabapple.

Starling - An immature specimen killed by a car at Mentor, May 27, 1953. Contents: 4 caterpillars, 4 small beetles, and several insect fragments.

Magnolia Warbler - Two found dead at Kent, August, 1953. Contents: insect fragments including beetles and weevils.

Myrtle Warbler - Found dead at Kent, October 22, 1953. Contents: abundant fragments of insects.

Bay-breasted Warbler - Found dead in Akron, September, 1953. Contents: 1 two-spotted lady bird beetle, 1 small wasp, with miscellaneous fragments of insects.

English Sparrow - Found dead in Kent, May 26, 1953. Contents: insect fragments.

Cardinal - Found dead in Brimfield Township of Portage County, January 6, 1954. Contents: numerous seeds of sumac.

White-crowned Sparrow - Killed by lawn mower at Pepper Pike, May 24, 1953. Contents: 2 beetles, fragments of insects including beetles and weevils, seeds of Bouncing Bet and Polygonum sp.